INFORMATION LETTER

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N.C.A. Procurement Committee To Meet on MSSA Inspection

The N.C.A. Procurement Committee will meet in Chicago August 23 to discuss the sanitary inspection of canning plants which was proposed by the MSSA in mid-June.

The proposed MSSA requirement, in the form of a "Notice to the Trade," was reported in the INFORMATION LETTER of June 17, page 193. Subsequently, the MSSA said that the inspection program would not be implemented until after January 1.

Representatives of the MSSA and the Veterinary Services have been invited to meet with the Procurement Committee at lunch.

Another principal topic to be discussed by the Committee is a proposal by the former Quartermaster General, Gen. McNamara, that canned food containers be marked in some manner to show the contents in event the label is lost.

N.C.A. Furnishes Materials For Educational TV Programs

The N.C.A. is expanding its educational services to include cooperation with educational television programs, as a project under the Consumer and Trade Relations Program.

"Canning Industry Resource Materials for Educational TV" is the name of a kit distributed last week to 60 key people at 42 educational TV stations across the country.

The kit includes nine different pieces of material which would be useful to those planning educational television programs for elementary school, junior and senior high schools, adult education programs, and the like. Emphasis is given to the descriptive labeling story, with a suggested program script being featured as one of the important kit materials. The leaflet "It's on the Label" also is included.

In a covering letter the N.C.A. offers cooperation in planning specific programs, and in furnishing information and visual materials about the canning industry.

Congress Completes Action on Omnibus Farm Bill, Retaining Marketing Order Exemption for Canning Crops

A joint Senate-House Conference Committee this past week reconciled conflicting provisions of the "Agricultural Act of 1961," the so-called omnibus farm bill, and the report was adopted by Congress on August 3, thus ending four months of consideration of major agricultural legislation. As finally passed, the measure continues to exempt from marketing order control all fruits and vegetables for canning or freezing except olives and asparagus which have been covered by the act since 1937, grapefruit which was added in 1954, and cherries, cranberries, and apples produced in California, Michigan, Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and the New England states, which were added by the present bill.

In addition to naming cherries, cranberries, and apples in the designated states, Congress also modified the Marketing Agreements Act of 1937 by adopting an alternate approach to eligibility for marketing orders. Under the 1937 Act, commodities became subject to controls by being specifically named in the statute. The new law retains this language but adds a subsection that makes all agricultural commodities subject to marketing orders and then specifically excludes the basic commodities, fruits and vegetables for canning and freezing, along with a number of other commodities and the products thereof.

The addition of marketing order authority to cherries, cranberries and apples does not extend the authority to the canned or frozen product but does cover these commodities for canning or freezing as well as for the fresh market. Processors are assured the opportunity to express their views on any marketing order that might affect the commodity for canning and freezing. Such an order could become effective only if approved by processors representing 50 percent of the volume so used.

The Conference Committee rejected a Senate amendment that would have authorized advertising programs, and compromised on a House proposal to authorize the extension of quality controls to imported commodities where the domestic item is under a marketing order.

FDA Announces Drive on Food Law Compliance

FDA announced August 3 that 43 seizure actions have been filed in federal courts since July 10 "in a nationwide campaign against foods it charges to be short weight or otherwise improperly labeled." Also, it was announced, FDA has asked U.S. Attorneys to institute 24 additional seizure actions.

The announcement quotes Commissioner George P. Larrick as commenting on the drive as follows:

"For several years we have not been able to give adequate attention to honest packing and prominent labeling in the food field because of the pressure of other duties.

"Through educational efforts and a limited number of regulatory actions, we have tried to keep industry aware of its responsibilities. However, from several sources we have reports of continued abuses, and these are being borne out by the survey now under way.

"These abuses must be corrected.

"However, I would like to point out that most foods are not short weight. Although there has been a variety of foods seized, the abuses obviously do not involve the whole food industry."

As a follow-up to the recent letter from the N.C.A. urging canners to give immediate attention to their filling operations, and in response to members' requests for technical advice on this subject, the N.C.A. Research Laboratories have prepared a statement that includes specific suggestions for detection and remedy of deficiencies, if any, in control of container fill. That statement is published on page 223.

Commerce Dept. Reorganizes Business Services Setup

The Business and Defense Services Administration of the U. S. Department of Commerce has undergone a slight reorganization, with the establishment of two new offices—the Office of Industrial Growth and Research and the Office of Economic Programs.

The Office of Industrial Growth and Research will concern itself with broad technical, economic and statistical studies of the effect of technological change, automation, mechanization, and basic and applied research on American industry.

The Office of Economic Programs will initiate broad studies of American industry and business, emphasizing national economic growth and increased production. It will especially concern itself with the position of American business and industry in relation to the world industrial balance of power.

In announcing the reorganization, the Department of Commerce stated that the BDSA's industry division concept is essentially the same, with individual divisions to represent broad industries, and that the creation of the new offices reflects "the Department's concern with the nation's long-term growth and development."

Also, the 21 industry divisions have been subdivided, for a more effective administration, into three groups—Industrial Materials, Industrial Equipment, and General Products and Services.

MSSA Requirements for Canned Corn

	Grade	Can Size	Quantity (pounds)	Quantity (cases)
Corn, cream style	A or B	24/303	14,129,000	588,708

To be procured by Chicago region, MSSA.

Meat Canned in Fiscal 1961

The Meat Inspection Division of the ARS has published a correction to its report on the quantity of meat canned under federal inspection during the fiscal year 1961 (see INFORMATION LETTER of July 29, page 218). Following are the corrected lines in the report:

Luncheon meat	135,544	158,760	294,304
Canned hams	296,422	4,254	300,675
Total	559,023	1,749,651	2,308,674

Label I.Q. Game Offered

The August issue of *Program Notes*, a quarterly publication of the National Association of Manufacturers reaching 22,000 women's clubs in urban and suburban areas, offers N.C.A.'s "Label I.Q. Game" to its group.

The description of the game says, in part: "An observation and memory game can be a fascinating way to entertain any group. And using this idea, the National Canners Association has come up with one of the most interesting program kits we've seen. Called 'The Label I.Q. Game,' it's a program in which everyone participates. Educational as well as fun, here's a program that will be remembered long after your meeting ends."

"The Label I.Q. Game" was produced as a Consumer and Trade Relations activity and has already been distributed to 1,452 women's club groups through an offer by the Countrywomen's League.

Wholesale Distributor Stocks of Canned Foods

including Warehouses of Retail Multiunit Organizations
(Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce)

Canned Food	July 1, 1960 Canners	July 1, 1960 Distributors	June 1, 1961 Canners	June 1, 1961 Distributors	July 1, 1961 Canners	July 1, 1961 Distributors
	(thousands of actual cases)					
Vegetables:						
Beans, green and wax	4,050	2,608	4,482	2,761	4,108	2,457
Beans, lima	n.a.	451	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	460
Beets	2,446	1,075	n.a.	n.a.	1,572	983
Carrots	1,515	431	n.a.	n.a.	1,458	434
Corn	4,726	3,511	5,151	3,536	3,260	3,291
Pumpkin and squash	691	315	n.a.	n.a.	952	288
Sauerkraut	[a]1,164	548	[a]2,217	616	[a]1,896	589
Tomatoes	3,006	2,564	n.a.	n.a.	4,282	2,720
Tomato catsup, chili sauce	6,732	1,950	n.a.	n.a.	8,001	2,314
Tomato paste	[b]1,039	535	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	560
Tomato puree (pulp)	[b]233	443	n.a.	n.a.	[b]167	446
Tomato sauce	[b]2,086	692	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	762
Fruits:						
Apples	[a]1,592	388	[a]1,377	433	[a]1,170	405
Applesauce	4,470	1,272	6,533	1,278	5,127	1,273
Cherries, RSP	336	405	169	278	103	247
Grapefruit segments	[d]1,777	392	[d]2,331	390	[d]2,048	383
Pineapple	[e]5,934	2,013	[e]6,784	1,834	[e]9,563	1,900
Juices:						
Citrus blends	[d]1,219	446	[d]956	405	[d]896	416
Grapefruit	[d]3,201	813	[d]3,283	1,005	[d]3,356	916
Orange	[d]3,946	1,058	[d]3,802	975	[d]3,245	900
Pineapple	[e]4,886	1,114	[e]4,058	1,380	[e]3,776	1,221
Tomato [f]	7,780	1,998	n.a.	n.a.	7,792	1,829
Fish:						
Maine sardines	[g]359	172	[g]294	215	[g]201	208

[a] Converted, 10 cases of 24/2½ per barrel. [b] California only. [c] Standard cases, basis 6/10. [d] Florida only. [e] Hawaii and the Philippines. [f] Includes vegetable juice combinations containing at least 70 percent tomato juice. [g] Standard cases, basis 100/3¼-oz. cans. n.a.—not available.

Canadian Labeling Deadline

New regulations governing the labeling of food products were adopted in 1960 by the Canadian Department of National Health and Welfare, but manufacturers were given until January 1, 1962, to bring their labeling into conformity. In the meantime, labels printed prior to July 1, 1960, were to be permitted if they conformed to regulations in force on December 31, 1959 (see INFORMATION LETTER of Feb. 13, 1960, page 80).

The detailed regulations are available from the Food and Drug Directorate, Department of National Health and Welfare, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Canada. Canners who merchandise in Canada, or intend to do so, are again reminded that they may submit labels or proofs of proposed labels for approval, either to the Food and Drug Directorate, or to the Production and Marketing Branch of the Canada Department of Agriculture, also at Ottawa.

Meeting Fill of Container Requirements

Canners were urged recently in a letter from N.C.A. to review their product filling operations and make changes where necessary to assure compliance with Food and Drug regulations. A number of members have since asked the N.C.A. for special guidance on how to proceed. Inasmuch as these steps involve technological operations the Association's Research Laboratories have prepared a statement that includes specific suggestions for detection and remedy of deficiencies, if any, in control of container fill. This statement follows:

The requirements of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and regulations adopted under it, that apply to the fill of canned foods may be briefly summarized thus:

1. Every label must bear an accurate statement of the quantity of contents, by weight, measure or count. There must be no doubt whether a statement expresses weight or volume.

2. The statement must be not only accurate, but reasonably related to the capacity of the can or jar.

3. The statement is assumed to represent the *average* amount of food in the container, and it is understood that some variations will occur in good packing practice.

However, the *average* (for a representative sample) must never be below the stated contents, and even though it is above there must not be an erratic pattern of large shortages in individual packages, even though balanced by over-fill in others.

4. The tolerable range of variation from the average in individual containers varies from product to product, but in each instance the packer is expected to keep the variation as small as possible with the methods generally available to the industry.

5. For some products there are standards of fill-of-container. Some of these control the total fill, some the amount of the principal ingredient. The requirements of these standards are over and above those just referred to, and must be included with them in a control program.

In most individual states the legal requirements, either in food and drug or weights and measures enactments, are similar to those of the Federal Act. Administrative interpretation, however, may and does vary the impact of local enforcement which may in some cases be more stringent than the application of the federal law.

A packer cannot assume he has reached the objective merely by an occasional spot check of his filling operations, by narrowing the range a little here and there, or by changing a label weight declaration. Constant scrutiny and improvement in techniques will have to continue. He can, however, be reassured if a thorough review of his container fills shows that averages are being maintained above the label declaration for the product, that the declaration itself is appropriate, and there are no gross can-to-can variations.

The question which no doubt has been in the minds of many is how to proceed in order to make sure of compliance. The following suggestions are aimed at giving some answers.

1. *Review records of weight data*

It is strongly suggested that each canner begin with a review of the weight records accumulated by his quality control people for all products packed. These data should be summarized, giving the average values, the maximum and minimum deviations from the average, and the percent of the containers below the declared contents. This should pin point gross problems and serve as a basis for proceeding into other areas of investigation.

2. *Check filling operations*

Sufficient checks should be made on each filler by weighing large lots of consecutive cans from the line to detect any gross pocket-to-pocket variations and to determine what effect product variations might have on fill weights. For hand or semiautomatic fillers the problem should be reviewed with the individuals involved and thorough and frequent check made on fill weights resulting from these operations. Headspace should also be noted.

3. *Review label weight declarations*

The label weights used by the company should be reviewed in relation to the canner's ability to match fills with label statements and the general experience of the industry in labeling such a product correctly for each container size.

4. *Check container variations*

A representative sample from each lot of containers received should be check weighed. It is possible to have enough variation in the weights of two lots of containers to introduce a serious error when a standard tare method of weighing is used. If this occurs it will not be possible to use a standard tare for all container lots.

5. *Set up proper control procedures for future operations*

Many canners use statistical quality control to maintain uniform, proper fill and net weights. Where such procedures are used they should be reviewed to make sure the samples are being properly taken and the data properly interpreted.

The canner not using statistical quality control should make sure the weight data he accumulates are meaningful and bear a definite relationship to the lot from which they were taken. Insufficient data could result in serious trouble.

In either case target weights should be set high enough to assure that the averages will be above the declared weights at all times. Insofar as they apply, records should be kept on: Net weight (or volume), fill weight (of each component if more than one), headspace, specific gravity, count, sizing operations, syrup and brine densities, and solids variations.

Also on a regular basis the technologist should: Study filler variations, observe filler settings, check on amount and cause of spillage, check topping operations, and other general preparation procedures.

Mechanical features which should be checked as part of this program would include: Smooth transfer of cans after filling, to avoid spillage; proper use of vibrating tracks under the filler; correct positioning of cans so that the product mounds in the can center; and proper filler speed to minimize stops and starts, etc.

When taking drained weights or net weights, draw 5 or 6 can samples periodically from each line and weigh to the nearest tenth or twentieth of an ounce (depending on size of container). This should show at a glance whether some abnormality needs correction. For each sampling period calculate the percent under-filled cans (i.e., the percent below the desired operating minimum or label weight).

If statistical control charts are used there will be practically no under-fills if the average and lower control limits are properly set. Otherwise the percent of under-fill gives the best indication whether the average is being kept high enough. If there is excessive under-filling the minimum must be brought up, either by increasing the average fill or decreasing the range of fill; sometimes both are necessary. When the average weights vary over a wide range from one period to another it probably means controllable variations are occurring in the filling operation and these should be ferreted out.

The most important part of the control procedure is continuous checking on a definite schedule and using known control limits.

Canned Foods for School Lunch

Canned Peas

USDA announced August 3 the purchase of 169,403 cases of No. 10 cans for distribution to schools participating in the National School Lunch Program, in which USDA estimates some 13⅓ million children regularly take part.

Purchases were made in Wisconsin, New York, and Illinois, at prices ranging from $3.65 to $4.00 without discount.

Canned Peaches

USDA announced August 4 offers to buy canned freestone and canned clingstone peaches, packed during 1961, with funds appropriated under the National School Lunch Act.

Offers will be considered on Grade B or better packed in No. 10 cans. Separate offers to sell canned freestone (exclusive of Lovells and Kim Elbertas) or canned clingstone peaches, slices or halves, must be received by the Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C., by 9 a.m. EDT August 15 for acceptance by August 18.

Delivery will be required during the period September 11 to October 14.

Red Tart Pitted Cherries

USDA announced August 4 offers to buy canned red tart pitted cherries of the 1961 pack for the school lunch program.

Offers will be considered only on cherries of a modified Grade C grade, packed in No. 10 cans. Offers must be received by 9 a.m. EDT August 11 for acceptance by August 16. Delivery will be required during the period September 5 to October 7.

Canned Foods for Survival

Survival depots stocked with food, clothing, and other shelter items would be set up under terms of a bill, S.2328, introduced by Senators Sparkman and Hill (Ala.).

Their bill would establish an Emergency Survival Board, at Cabinet level, which would "determine which cities within the United States would be the most likely to be strategic targets in the event of enemy attack, determine with respect to each such city the danger zone from which all persons will be required to be evacuated, estimate the probable numbers of such evacuees, and determine the areas to which such evacuees would most likely be taken."

In each such evacuation area the Emergency Survival Board would establish a survival depot, including warehouses stocked with shelter items. The legislation directs the Board to utilize CCC stocks and foods acquired by USDA in carrying out an agricultural program, and also authorizes purchase of food from domestic sources. The bill also provides:

"The items stored in a survival depot shall be packaged and stored in a condition that will protect such items from the expected amount of radioactive fallout that would be expected in the various evacuation areas. Each such depot shall contain tents, cots, clothing, and medical supplies made from surplus cotton, flour milled from surplus wheat, butter made from surplus milk, powdered milk made from surplus milk, peanut butter made from surplus peanuts, canned beef, canned pork, and other canned meats, fruit juices, fruits, vegetables, and other foods, which have been canned, processed, or otherwise prepared in a suitable form for storage, and a supply of rations of a type prepared for use by the Armed Forces of the United States sufficient for the initial emergency period."

The legislation also provides for rotation of stocks, by transferring the foods and other survival items to other federal departments and agencies.

Oceanographic Research

The Senate on July 28 passed and sent to the House, with amendments, S.901, a bill to establish a comprehensive 10-year program of oceanographic research and surveys. The bill is cited as the "Marine Sciences and Research Act of 1961."

The legislation would provide for a long-range program aimed at gaining knowledge of value to the domestic economy, national defense, maritime commerce, and the ocean fisheries. The total program would involve numerous agencies in the National Science Foundation, the Departments of Interior, Commerce, Navy, Army, and Treasury, and the Atomic Energy Commission and Smithsonian Institution.

The objectives of the legislation were supported by the N.C.A. in a statement submitted to the Senate Commerce Committee.

The Interior Department and its Bureau of Commercial Fisheries would be authorized to conduct research and to make grants and to enter into long-term contracts for research on the development of the marine sciences. The bill also would provide, specifically, for studies of the economic and legal aspects of commercial fisheries and the utilization of marine products.

All of the federal agencies would be required to cooperate and share their knowledge with one another.

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